

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The replacement sheet in the Appendix includes changes to Figure 2. This sheet, which also includes Figures 1 and 3, replaces the original sheet including Figures 1-3. In Figure 2, the previously omitted element numbers 41-44 have been added.

REMARKS

The drawings have been amended to make editorial changes therein.

The indication that claims 19 and 22 include patentable subject matter is acknowledged with thanks. In reliance thereon, claims 28 and 29 have been added that include the subject matter of claims 19 and 22 respectively. New claims 26-27 correspond to claims 16-17 and claims 30-35 correspond to claims 23-24.

Claims 13-24 were rejected under §112, second paragraph, and have been replaced with new claims 25-35 that are believed to be proper as to form. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

New claim 25 includes the subject matter of claims 13-15 as well as a further change. Specifically, the snap-fit tabs have one end that is integral with one of the first and second removable bushes and an opposing end that extends axially beyond the end face of the corresponding one of the first and second terminal portions and that is arranged to grip the other of said first and second removable bushes. By contrast, the snap-fit tabs 202 illustrated in Figure 11B of EIDSMORE 5,547,229 extend perpendicularly to the axis of the bush with one end integral to a half portion of the bush and one end that protrudes from the half portion and is arranged to grip the other half

portion of the same bush. Accordingly, it is believed that new claim 25 is also allowable.

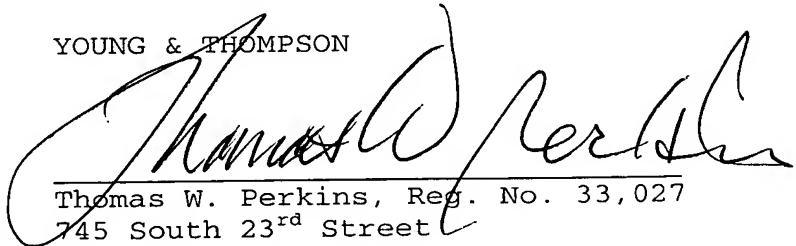
The present amendment overcomes the substantive rejections of the claims by incorporating allowable subject matter or including a further limitation that is not found in the references and reconsideration and withdrawal of the substantive rejections are respectfully requested.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



Thomas W. Perkins, Reg. No. 33,027  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

TWP/mjr  
May 9, 2005

**APPENDIX:**

The Appendix includes the following item:

- one replacement drawing sheet.